

THE DAILY NEWS
 PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

Published Every Afternoon, except Sunday, by Prince Rupert Daily News, Limited, Third Avenue.
 H. C. COLLEN, Managing Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

City Delivery, by mail or carrier, yearly period, paid in advance \$5.00
 For lesser period, paid in advance per month 50
 By mail to all parts of Northern and Central British Columbia, paid in advance for yearly period \$3.00
 Transient Display Advertising, per inch, per insertion \$1.40
 Local Advertising on Front Page, per inch \$2.80
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 By mail to all other parts of British Columbia, the British Empire and United States, paid in advance per year \$6.00
 By mail to all other countries, per year \$7.50

Contract Rates on Application
 Advertising and Circulation Telephone - 98
 Editor and Reporters Telephone - 86
 Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations

DAILY EDITION Friday, March 15, 1929

HARVEY S. FIRESTONE



Whose efforts to produce an independent rubber supply has transformed Liberia from a backward country into a progressive nation. He has upwards of 20,000 men on his payroll there now and there are good roads and many automobiles, whereas a few years ago there was only one belonging to the president of the little republic.

**YESTERDAY'S PRICES
 TORONTO EXCHANGE**

(Courtesy S. D. Johnston, Co.)

Hudson Bay Mining, 20.55.
Int'l. Nickel, 61.00.
Mal Arctic, 71.
Mandy, 1.52.
Mining Corporation, 5.20.
Noranda, 60.00.
Sudbury Basin, 11.50.
Sherritt-Gordon, 9.50.
Teck Hughes, 9.45.
Towagamac, 2.41.
Treadwell Yukon, 15.50.
Vipond, 1.15.

TRUTH ABOUT NATIONAL LINE

(Toronto Globe)

Although the enemies of public ownership in the United States still misrepresent the true state of affairs concerning the Canadian National Railways, the truth is gradually being made known there. The Detroit Free Press devotes a long and interesting editorial to describing the history of the Government railway enterprise in this country. It points out that less than ten years ago the railway situation in Canada was chaotic. The old Grand Trunk, owned by English capitalists; the Canadian Northern, built by Mackenzie & Mann, with heavy Government subsidies; the Intercolonial, a Government-owned road in the Eastern Provinces; and the National Transcontinental, built by the Government and leased in part to the Grand Trunk, were bankrupt, and were keeping their heads above water only by constantly increasing borrowings from the Government. The latter was forced to choose between draining the public Treasury to keep these roads operating, or embarking on the experiment of Government ownership. It elected to pursue the latter course.

Tracing Sir Henry Thornton's work, the Free Press says: "In less than seven years Sir Henry has welded these scattered lines into a splendid system that is a national asset instead of a national liability. The first year there was an operating deficit of \$34,000,000 which, in the last fiscal year, just ended, has been converted into a surplus of \$58,000,000. Business has been pouring into this rehabilitated system. It has passed in gross business its great rival the Canadian Pacific Railway. Its gross for last year was \$276,631,921, an amount exceeded only by the Pennsylvania and the New York Central."

The fact that the Canadian National is still showing paper deficits on its huge excess capi-

ICELAND HAD PARLIAMENT FIRST OF ALL

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, March 12.—The "mother of parliaments" is generally understood to be the English parliament, but if age counts the palm goes to the Icelandic alting, which is to celebrate its tenth centenary in 1930.

The alting celebration will be of a national character. Many families in Iceland can trace their ancestors back to the first legislators of the Saga Isle. The Vikings, who settled there, understood the necessity of law and order, and it was from Iceland that the so-called Norse law went to Scotland.

The alting was instituted in the year 930 on the plain of Thingvala, and the story of the Ting is being written by Benedict Sveinsson, the president of the lower house. He is assisted by a bevy of historians appointed by the government.

The festivities in connection with the jubilee will be held on the old historic spot at Thingvala a well nigh ideal setting giving the visitors a wonderful view of the beautiful scenery of Iceland. A large foreign invasion is expected on this occasion. Icelandic-Americans will form a great body of these visitors. Many thousands are living in the United States and in Canada and style themselves "West-Icelanders." They have already planned a joint visit to their old country on this occasion.

It is intended to get Icelandic poets and composers to create the necessary poetic frame for these festivities, which will also be rich in pageantry of historical scenes from the various periods of Iceland.

alization is what enables un- friendly propagandists to deceive gullible outsiders. The writing down of the railway's "book" valuations to the system's true worth is in line with fair play and common sense.

RE-ENACT MURDER SCENE FOR POLICE



The above scene shows how the Ontario Provincial Police reenacted the "Prison Farm Murder" with the aid of prisoners who witnessed the slaying of John Blisnuik, a prisoner at the Industrial Farm, near Port Arthur, Ont., by John Bihun, a fellow prisoner. Bihun is facing a charge of murder. The two men were serving short sentences, and one barely knew the other. Bihun is reported to have said "I was just mad and did not want to work any more." He hit him over the head with an axe.

WHEAT POOL SITUATION

Owing to the lateness of the season, it was hardly expected that shipments through the local elevator would be resumed this season, but it is satisfactory to know that business this way will return to normal next year.

Prince Rupert is fortunate in having three men who were willing to drop their work and proceed without salary to Calgary to take up this matter for the city. They are deserving of our thanks.

While we believe that the delegation has done its best and that the pool would have been influenced by them if it had been possible to influence it at all, we are not at all satisfied with the position taken by the pool. Last summer we were told by its officials that it would ship more grain than ever this way, but instead of that it shipped almost nothing. The elevator might almost as well have been idle. Should there be any repetition of the situation, we suggest that Prince Rupert importune the government to cancel the lease. It could not be worse in any case and it might be a lot better. The pool has been given every possible inducement to do business here. With the elevator free for two years they had a splendid deal, but they fell down on the job.

PRINCE RUPERT'S NEXT MOVE

The next move of the people of Prince Rupert will be to get after that differential in shipping rates. The board of trade has been in a more or less leisurely manner trying to secure the lower insurance rate for Hecate Strait, but the Dominion government has failed to instal the necessary lights. Now it is promised that action will be taken by the government but the city council and Board of Trade will, doubtless, feel it advisable to again take the matter up in a determined manner with a view to having the rates set right.

ATTITUDE OF THE POOL

If the pool had wished to use the port of Prince Rupert it would have suggested the necessity of action along the lines now projected. Instead of that it takes practically all its business to Vancouver and we, until a few weeks ago, allowed it to pass as if we approved.

Possibly we should have taken action earlier. At any rate, it is satisfactory that we did not allow the pool to get away with their raw deal without making a gesture and we must be on the alert in future to take action more quickly if they fall down.

We are glad to collaborate with the Alberta organization as long as it uses us decently, but we owe it to ourselves to take up the cudgels and do it quickly if we feel that it is discriminating against us.

MATTER OF SPELLING

Spelling is one of the difficult subjects for young people to master. Some never learn and others pick it up almost intuitively. The difficulty with spelling is that it is not static. Fashions change in spelling as they do in other matters. Words become shortened just as do women's dresses. Anyone who doubts that the language is mobile should read a few pages of Chaucer. Shakespear was not sure how he should spell his own name.

Spelling is largely arbitrary. There is no great principle at stake. If a word is spelled wrong it is purely a slip of the memory and not a sign of wrong thinking. Many great men have been poor spellers.

There are a great many words on the spelling of which people differ. British Columbia is apt to struggle along, clinging to the old fashions. A great many people here continue to use the "U" in "honour," "favour" and similar words. In this paper we adopt the more modern and more common Canadian spelling, "honor," "favor." "Programme" is a long ugly word and is being shortened to "program," as is done in most centres throughout this continent.

There is a tendency in newspapers to shorten words and to omit capital letters. This is more pronounced in eastern Canada, where the mass of the people live and where are the centres of education and culture. It is particularly noticeable in Toronto. Shortening the words saves time on the linotype machines and time is money. Capitals take time, so they are often dropped. The whole tendency is toward simplification.

People who are sticklers for the older systems sometimes feel annoyed at the changes, as have the ultra-conservative people of all ages, but progress is made in spite of them. The younger people will adapt themselves to the changing conditions.

THE LISTENER-IN



—Macaulay in the Brooklyn Eagle

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